(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this problem is also afflicting other important tourist spots in the country;

(d) whether the Government have taken steps to check it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The tourist traffic to Kashmir declined to about 5,017 during 1991 as compared to 557,977 during 1989.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise

[*English*]

More flights in North-Eastern Region

*179. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines proposes to introduce more flights in the North-Eastern region during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The capacity presently provided by Indian Airlines and Vayudoot to/from stations in the North-Eastern Region is considered sufficient to meet the existing passenger demand.

Staff strength in Vayudoot

*180. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the staff employed in the Vayudoot has nearly been doubled during the last four years while the fleet strength has actually gone down;

(b) whether the Government propose to reduce the staff strength to curtail the losses in the Vayudoot and

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) the details of the manpower and the fleet strength during the last four years in Vayudoot were as follows:-

Year	*Fleet Strength*		*Manpower*
1987-88	DO-228	10	1016
	HS-748	05	
	F-27	04	
	Total	19	

Year	*Fleet Strength*		*Manpower*	
1988-89	DO-228		10	1303
	HS-748	07		
	F-27	04		
	Total	21		
1989-90	DO-228		08	1767
	HS-748	10		
	F-27	02		
	Total	20		
1990-91	DO-228		08	1814
	HS-748	09		
	F-27	01		
	Total	18		

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A complete ban on further recruitments has been imposed in Vayudoot. Efforts are on to absorb eligible Vayudoot employees in other organisations.

Decontrol of Steel

*181. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new policy for iron and steel;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment of the impact of decontrol of steel on its prices vis-a vis on steel user industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the prices of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Salient features ofderegulation of iron and steel are as follows: